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SOURCE Hsin Nung Ts'un-pao.

CHINESE FARMERS WORK SOLDIERS' FARMS
 AND DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIALISM

Summary: The Chinese farmer is confronted with the problem of caring for the fields of soldiers' families. The farmers recognize their debt to the Army and in many cases work the fields of the soldiers and produce as much as on their own fields. However, there are also many examples of careless attention to this matter.

Farmers are also questioning the implications of socialized farming.

CARING FOR FIELDS OF SOLDIERS FAMILIES -- Kiukiang, Hsin Nung Ts'un-pao, 22 Jul 52

The good work of caring for the fields of the soldiers' families is not always carried out properly. Chairman Mao has said, "If there is no Peoples' Army, the people will have nothing." It is the political duty of all to support our army and to treat well the families of fallen heroes, revolutionary soldiers, and disabled men.

The farmers recognize that their changed condition, with distribution of land, is due to the victories of the Revolutionary Army led by Chairman Mao. Many farmers say, "When you enjoy a drink of water, you must think of the source." They have sworn a patriotic oath that the fields they plow for the soldiers' families will in no way be inferior in crop production to their own.

Recently, in Yung Hsiu Hsien, there was an investigation of this work. In five of the seven ch'u the work was satisfactory. Generally, the fields had been plowed three times, harrowed three times, and weeded two or three times. But in some cases, they considered their own selfish interests first, working for the soldiers' families only after their own fields had been cared for. The work was done in haphazard fashion, weeding the four sides but not the middle, and rice planted after only one plowing and one harrowing. In some cases where fertilizer was available it was not spread. Weeds on the paths between paddy fields were not cut. The rice plants were much inferior in growth to those in the surrounding fields.

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In a few cases cadres falsely gave a fine report though personally they had done nothing in the program and had not investigated the situation.

FARMERS QUESTION SOCIALISTIC PROPAGANDA -- Kiukiang, Hsin Nung Ts'un-pao, 22 Jul 52

A letter to the editors by a propaganda cadre promoting the socialization of agriculture states that the farmers are very much interested in the future of socialism. But some of their thinking has been as follows: "The Communist Party led us to the social overturn. In the future, the party is bound to bring it about that we do our farming together. Sooner or later we will have to help each other whether we wish to or not. Will this program be to our benefit?"

Some farmers think that "socialism is simply eating together ordinary communal fare." Some think that in the future they will have food to eat and clothes to wear, but no spending money nor any of the everyday things one enjoys using. That, they think, is no better than coolie labor.

The result is that some old peasants, whose productive strength is slight, are unwilling to form mutual-aid teams, being content, if they run into adversities, to await events passively.

When propaganda is presented, some men ask in surprise, "In the collective farm is the harvest apportioned according to the amount of labor contributed? Does a man still have personal property?"

Some admit, "True enough," one can work all the time alone and get nowhere. If all put their land together and let machines do the work, that will be better."

Some ask, "How much time will we need to accomplish these changes here?" One old man sighed as he remarked, "Under Chairman Mao's leadership, we are bound to have happy days to enjoy. My only fear is that I cannot live long enough to see them. You young men are very fortunate."

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